

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 1998

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 280,002 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 10,000 tons, slightly higher than that of the previous month and 1% above the rate for February 1997.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 71.92 cents per pound in January to 70.44 cents per pound in February, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 56 to 58 cents per pound during the month. According to Resource

Recycling's *Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's decreased only slightly from 57.5 cents per pound in January to 57.3 cents per pound in February.

Update

The monthly average U. S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 69.19 cents per pound in March. The buying price range for aluminum UBC's held steady at 56 to 58 cents per pound during the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1997: p/	3,603	2,020 r/	1,730 r/	3,740 r/	2,060	561	2,621	9,970 r/	1,880
1997:									
February	277	160	139	299	147	37	184	760	1,830
March	307	169	150	319	209	48	257	883	1,810
April	295	169	151	320	196	48	244	859	1,810
May	304	174	147	321	198	49	247	872	1,800
June	296	164	145	309	167	47	214	819	1,810
July	305	176	147	323	157	51	208	836	1,830 r/
August	304	174	144	318	152	47	199	821	1,820 r/
September	294	173	142	315	150	47	196	805	1,820 r/
October	307	174	150	324	175	47	222	854	1,830
November	298	162	136	298	146	50	196	792	1,860
December	310	150 r/	129 r/	279 r/	222	49	270	859 r/	1,880
Jan.-Feb.	583	331	286	617	293	79	372	1,570	1,830
1998:									
January	309	145 r/	129 r/	273 r/	220	54	274	856	1,890
February	280	145	128	272	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-Feb.	589	289	256	546	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1997: p/	1,720	1,320	1,460	1,300	1,110 r/	1,030 r/	107	94	7	7	4,400 r/	3,740 r/
1997:												
February	141	108	116	104	88	81	7	6	(2/)	(2/)	352	299
March	142	109	132	116	94	87	7	6	(2/)	(2/)	376	319
April	144	111	129	114	95	88	7	7	1	1	376	320
May	143	110	124	110	100	93	8	7	1	1	376	321
June	143	110	125	111	89	82	7	6	1	1	363	309
July	144	110	129	114	98	91	8	7	1	1	379	323
August	143	110	119	105	101	94	10	9	1	1	374	318
September	144	111	118	105	94	87	14	12	1	1	370	315
October	146	112	123	109	97	89	14	12	1	1	381	324
November	144	110	109	97	89	82	10	8	1	1	352	298
December	144	111	111	99	67 r/	62 r/	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	331 r/	279 r/
Jan.-Feb.	284	218	242	216	185	171	13	12	1	1	725	617
1998:												
January	146	112	109	97	61 r/	56 r/	8 r/	7 r/	(2/)	(2/)	325 r/	273 r/
February	144	111	105	94	65	60	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	323	272
Jan.-Feb.	290	223	214	191	126	116	17	15	1	1	648	546

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 1998 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	120,000	144,000	92,500	111,000
Integrated aluminum companies	105,000	105,000	93,800	93,800
Independent mill fabricators	54,100	64,900	49,700	59,600
Foundries	7,070	8,480	6,230	7,470
Other consumers	409	491	409	491
Total	287,000	323,000	243,000	272,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
FEBRUARY 1998 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks closing
New scrap:				
Solids	23,400 r/	68,700	72,300	19,800
Can stock clippings	5,330 r/	18,100	19,300	4,160
Other clippings	7,170 r/	15,300	15,200	7,260
Borings and turnings	5,740	20,000	20,000	5,710
Dross and skimmings	2,900 r/	27,900	27,900	2,930
Total new scrap	44,600 r/	150,000	155,000	39,800
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	30,300 r/	53,600	53,400	30,400
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,390 r/	1,550	1,660	1,280
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	27,000 r/	66,700	71,400	22,200
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	1,200 r/	5,190	5,250	1,140
Total old scrap	59,800 r/	127,000	132,000	55,100
Sweated pig	1,330	784	784	1,330
Total all classes	106,000 r/	278,000	287,000	96,300

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening r/	Production Feb.	Net shipments Feb.	Stocks, closing	Production Jan.-Feb. 3/	Net shipments Jan.-Feb. 3/
Die cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,680	6,670	6,900	3,450	14,100	14,500
380 and variations	13,500	44,500	44,300	13,700	88,300	88,300
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	14,500	2,090	2,110	14,400	4,210	4,230
No. 319 and variations	3,190	12,300	12,100	3,400	24,100	24,100
F-132 alloy and variations	2,200	4,350	4,350	2,200	8,690	8,500
Al-Zn alloys	499	248	248	499	495	495
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	216	884	884	216	1,770	1,770
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	66	85	85	66	170	170
Other 4/	3,390	8,270	8,120	3,530	16,600	16,200
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	6,500	14,000	13,900	6,530	28,200	28,100
Total all alloys	47,700	93,400	93,100	48,000	187,000	186,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,310	XX	XX	10,700	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	7,310	XX	XX	14,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	474	XX	XX	913	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	80,300	XX	XX	160,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous months.

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1998 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	1,080	92	547	1,720
Australia	2,160	129	--	2,290
Bahrain	--	1,680	--	1,680
Belgium	36	700	20	756
Brazil	633	41	92	766
Canada	116,000	28,000	18,800	163,000
Croatia	--	57	--	57
France	12	1,210	352	1,580
Germany	284	3,660	36	3,980
Ghana	--	243	--	243
Hungary	--	157	--	157
Italy	--	489	202	691
Japan	16	962	64	1,040
Korea, Republic of	--	10	271	281
Mexico	57	1,140	6,670	7,870
Netherlands	115	317	352	784
Norway	52	273	--	325
Russia	84,300	5,040	1,290	90,700
Slovakia	54	--	--	54
Slovenia	--	345	--	345
South Africa	--	458	38	496
Spain	--	1,530	363	1,890
Sweden	--	320	145	465

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6--Continued
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1998 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Switzerland	--	258	--	258
Ukraine	2,770	--	379	3,150
United Arab Emirates	--	--	103	103
United Kingdom	1,240	1,700	722	3,670
Venezuela	10,400	1,940	445	12,800
Other	447	3,250	5,260	8,960
Total	220,000	54,000	36,200	310,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1998 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	81	262	--	343
Belgium	--	1,350	38	1,390
Brazil	--	7,260	--	7,260
Canada	9,780	26,700	11,600	48,100
China	73	2,760	4,190	7,020
Czech Republic	--	1	--	1
Dominican Republic	--	10	--	10
France	11	396	27	434
Germany	68	592	--	660
Hong Kong	38	2,700	1,990	4,720
India	--	24	57	81
Israel	37	226	--	263
Italy	--	186	--	186
Japan	5,300	3,130	2,270	10,700
Korea, Republic of	399	679	2,610	3,690
Malaysia	(2/)	215	36	251
Mexico	5,070	8,490	4,370	17,900
Netherlands	20	109	--	129
Saudi Arabia	--	556	--	556
Singapore	--	191	2	193
Spain	--	77	--	77
Sweden	--	1	--	1
Taiwan	43	1,300	1,880	3,220
Thailand	--	1,660	--	1,660
United Kingdom	82	1,210	59	1,350
Venezuela	--	2,050	--	2,050
Other	231	5,590	44	5,860
Total	21,200	67,700	29,200	118,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.